(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) से (ङ) मनमाड औरंगाबाद खंड के आमान परिवर्तन के बाद बम्बई वी० टी० तक एक रात्रिकालीन एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी तथा पुणें तक एक पैसेंजर गाड़ी चलाने सहित तीन गाड़ियां चलाई गई हैं। इस समय इस खंड पर कोई और गाड़ी चलाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है क्योंकि औरंगाबाद से आगे आमान परिवर्तन कार्य पहले ही प्रगति पर है। पूरे खंड का बड़ी लाइन में आमान परिवर्तन हो जाने के बाद ही और गाड़ियां चलाने पर विचार किया जाएगा।

Corruption in the Reservation of Train Tickets

1062. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that corrupt practices are adopted during the peak, holiday and summer seasons in the reservation of train tickets ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to overcome these unfair practices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Surprise checks and raids are con-' ducted by the Vigilance organisations of all Zonal Railways including Vigilance Special Squad of Railway Board in the Reservation and Booking Offices located throughout the country to curb such malpractices.

(ii) Special concerted drives to check malpractice's in the Reservation Offices are undertaken atleast twice a year during summer rush, holidays and during Durga Puja/Dussehra/Diwali period.

(iii) Under the Railway Act 1989 the punishment for touts who illegally purchase tickets in fictitious names and later on sell the same to other person, has been substantially increased.

(iv) The penalty (fine)' for passengers who travel on tickets purchased in fictitious name has likewise, been increased from Rs. 250 to Rs. 500.

(v) Public are educated/exhorted through press, television, posters, etc. not to buy tickets from unauthorised persons.

(vi) Checks are conducted in trains to detect passengers travelling on tickets purchased in fictitious names and they arc treated as ticketless passengers.

(vii) The Railway staff found includinr. in malpractices in the matter of reservatior of tickets are taken up severely under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Scount Group to Aardh Kumbh Mela ai Hardwar

1063. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleas ed to state :

(a) Whether the Railway Board Scou Group was sent to Aardh Kumbh Mela a Hardwar recently ;

(b) if so, the number of persons sen alongwith the nature of duties performec and the amount spent each day.

(c) Whether any organisation had invit ed Railway Board Scout Group to thi 'Mela' ;

(d) if so the details thereof and if not the reasons for attending the 'Mela' at it own;

(e) Whether the Railway Board Scou Group had confined itself at Railwa Station ;

(f) Whether no class-T officer of Railwa had ever accompanied the Railway Boar Scouts to any of its tour so far to ovei see their performance ;